Davison Mich.
Dec. 17 1894

Mr. William Brewster
Dear Sir:

Your letter received. You say you might consider a plan for collecting ducks eggs in N. Dak next Spring. If you could give me an idea of what you wish. I can give you figures. I am pleased to say I have all plannes laid for an extensive trip in N. Dak. and Manatoba. I have as a partner a Mr. Mummery of Flint Mich. a firstclass taxidermist who has mounted everything from a humming bird to a whale. He is a born. taxidermist his father was one before him

17Dec94

His father was curator in some British Museum Margate I believe, and afterward held similar position in some Museum in Canada, and at the time of his death was in the employ of the Hudson Bay Co. mounting mammels and bird. Mr. Mummery has of course learned the trade direct from his father and I can say for him that he turns out as fine work in birds and animals as I have seen not excepting anyone. So you see we will be in line to furnish either skins or mounted specimens. We start April 1 and stay till July 15. I will perhaps stay later. I mean to pay special attention to small birds as: Bairds Sparrow Lecontes, Nelsons, Lincoln also the various warbler. besides the

17Dec94

water birds. I would be pleased
to furnish the ducks egg with
nest if you wish. I can collect sets
of Mallard, Pintail, Shoveller, Gadwall
Bluewing Teal, Greenwing Teal Redhead
Baldpate, Canvas back, Ruddy duck.
Amer. Golden-Eye, Lesser Scaup.
I may also take sets of
Ring-neck and Whitewing Scoter
Buffle-head, Greater Scaup.
Can you use sets of Canada
Goose, Short eared Owl,
Amer. Roughlegged and Swainsons,
hawk. Prairie Sharptail Grouse
Bald Eagle Ring Plover,
Chestnutcollared Longspur Etc
These bird ~~last~~ mentioned all
nest their, along with the rarer
Bairds, Lecontes, and Nelsons Sharptail
Sparrow, all of which I expect
to take next year. I base
my expectations on what I have
done on two previous collecting
trips, As far as prices are concerned

17 Dec 94

all we want is a good just remumeration for our trouble We will furnish specimens as cheap as anyone. We will put up over 500 skins and will most likely have some very desirable specimens all Skins will be measured and a record kept of date, sex, color of eye feet bill etc. Will be able to furnish Gull, Terns in series if wanted. Hoping to have instructions from you as to what you wish at an early day as possible so we can plan accordingly and save time when the season commences by thus being in ship shape.

Your Truly,
Edwin S. Bryant.
Davison
Mich.

P.S. If you chance to be in Providence R. I. you can see two sets of Amer. Goldeneye in Chas. E. Doe's collection of my collecting.

Edwin S. Bryant.
Dec. 17 - 1894.

Davison Mich
Dec. 28/94

Mr. William Brewster:
Dear Sir:

I send you lists with prices affixed in some cases I may be able to reduce price somewhat and on large order give a liberal discount. I have used in most cases prices I have sold at especially among the ducks. How would the value of a nest equal value of one egg suit you also the head and wings equal value of one egg ex- a set of 10 egg Blue wing Teal nest head + wings would amt. to $ 1.20 according to my prices. I have

Bryant - Edwin S.
Dec. 24th 1896

never sold head & wing so do not know value. In some cases I would be looser to take it in case of Canada Goose I would have to make at least two trips to the nest and might have to spend hours before I could capture her. But if you will agree to value of one egg I will take my chances, except on such Species as Whooping Crane Trumpeter Swan, Eagle where the skins are high priced and in great demand. I start April 1. and may get some of the Gyrfalcon Skins. and other northern birds before they retire to their nesting grounds I send you some skins next week.

Your Truly
Edwin S Bryant

Davison, Mich.
Jan. 11/95

Mr. William Brewster,
Dear Sir:

I sent by express skins of two Tree Sparrows and one White-breasted Nuthatch of Mr. Mummerie's make I think if you find any objection to them it will be the length of them I was absent when he made the skins or I would have had him done a little different. His experiance has been mostly making for Millinary purposes and remounting dried skins and general taxidermist work. I wish you could see some of his mounted birds. The skins of the Blue-wing teal is of my work, one I put up while in Dakota in 92. And the Canvas-back also my work I send these skins to you to let you see the quality of work I accomplished before I ever had taken ~~took~~ any lessons in taxidermy

Now do not understand me that I
think those birds all right. For I do not
the wings are far from being in
their proper place besides other defects.
I have learned many new things about
wrapping a bird and several little kinks
that are of great importance in the make
up of a skin. Inform us about the way
you wants heads of ducks wheather ~~made~~ laid on
back similar to one I sent or out straight
We will wire all long necked birds but
inform us the position you wish long
legs and heads with long bill to be in as in
case of Great Marbled Godwit for example
I am sorry Mr. Munamey could not have
had chance to make up a duck skin
but his ducks in fact all of his birds are
mounted. Mr. Arnold of Battle Creek Mich.
was in to see us the other day and was
delighted with his birds, and gave us
an order for one pair of every kind
we can procure excepting about fifteen
kinds as Robin, Coot, Et. Mr Arnold has only

11/24.95

three week vacation and spends it after eggs and does not have time to take skins, He will call on us the coming season while in the field. You speap about the breakage of eggs. Well as far as I know, I have never had but *one* egg broken ever reported to me, and I think that one was cracked when I packed it. I have had egg broken in my trunk where I packed many together. But they were usaly some egg that I did not value much hence was not as careful as I should have been. I packed and sent by express since July 10 over 1000 eggs by mail about 100 and used paper to wrap each in, a strong fairly stiff tissue (sulphide) If any eggs in sets are broken would prefer to taking back set. if a common varidty do not want it. If a rare one and you wish to retain it. I will throw off 2 o 3 times

Bryant – Edwin S.
Jan – 11th 1895

value of broken eggs. I have alway had understanding, That in case of broken egg that it was customary to return broken shells as evidence of good faith. However you will not be troubled with broken eggs from me. The ducks nest will be put up in paste board boxes not flattened out, that spoils their looks Will collect any thing you order, and in manner you wish. In some cases my prices may be too high but in the main I think they are about right. None will be raised and in some cases may drop. Expect of course to give a discount on orders, The larger the order the better the discount.

I believe I left Sprague's Pipit out of list. can obtain skins.

Have a friend of mine in N. Dakota offering skins of Snowy Owl (fresh) for 2.00-2.50

Hoping to hear from you
I remain Yours
Edwin S. Bryant.

I do not know of any of my specimens in any of the cities you name except New York and I could not give name of party as my egg went through dealer Have sent mostly to: Buffalo Pittsburg West Chester Pa. Oswego N.Y. &c.

We will have a good photographic outfit. Have you any use for photos. of nests in situ.

Davison Mich.
Feb. 27/95.

Mr. William Brewster,

Dear Sir:

Sorry you returned skins I did not mean to put you to that expense. Do not blame you in least for not liking them. For they were no good. I do not have on hands any sets of egg with nests.

I have moved around from one state to another so much that I have limited my collection to just eggs. Now Mr. Brewster I am ambitious, not so much for the money value of any order you might see fit to give me, but for your stamp of approval. I am confident that we will make skins this Spring that will come up to your standard. I do not get discouraged vey easy and my aim is to please anyone

Bryant - Edwin S.
Feb. 22nd 1895

and I will make good skins or quit.

You may in a few days receive some samples from my friend in Flint. If they do not suit do not return but destroy or as you like. And with your permission we beg to submit specimens of our work at short intervals untill we can make satisfactory skins. I make you a proposition Give us an order for eggs, nest, head & wings and if they are not satisfactory it will not cost you anything beyond the repacking of same. I will take extry pains in preparing egg for you. I have never had the least complaint and can send you letters in which they praise my eggs. How do you want head and wings fix. If you give me an order I can send you a portion of it and if not satisfactory we will consider order canceled.

Your Respectively
Edwin S. Bryant.
Davison Mich.

P.S. I do not care for list I have been obliged to make a different one on account of orders.

Dawson Mich.
March 31/95

Mr. William Brewster

Dear Sir:

We sent some sample skins some time ago. Have not heard from you lately. Do you place an order for 6 eggs with head & wings.

We have been disappointed in money matters and could not invest in the camera we had decided to take with us. And considered a cheap affair as money wasted. Letters will reach me here till Sat. Evening the 6 of April. On Sunday night at 11 P.M. we start for the North-West. Letters dated later than the 4th should be sent to me at Devils Lake City N. Dak. Yours truly

Edwin S. Bryant.

(Over)

Bryant– Edwin S.
March 31st. 1895

I notice what you say about birds that do not build nest; about the taking up of the drift, soil, shell etc.

I had a plan in view, to try this season of preserving the nest of a certain bird that makes a nest on the sandy, gravelly islands and points of land that are found on Devils Lake. I took a set of two (two had been destroyed previous) eggs of this bird and both birds last June on an island in said lake. We did not leave the island till after dark and must have lost them off our baskets while wading ashore as we missed them soon after landing. I should think they were the Belted Piping Plover. The nest was a neatly formed hollow in sand filled or rather lined with tiny stones placed in rows circular in form, the sizes of pebbles increasing toward the outer portion of nest. Why not take stiff card or clay fill nest full lift up the stones by adhesion to soil and place in plaster of paris when dry shake out or wash away the soil.

Bryant – Edwin S.
July 14th, 1895.

Devils Lake N. Dak
July 14 – 95

Mr. William Brewster

Dear Sir

I am greatly
mortified to find that we have
but very little material for you
that is collected according to your
instructions. It is partly my own
fault, partly the fault of some
halfbreeds that stole a box of eggs
from us at Pembina thinking it
contained something of value to them
but mostly the fault of my partner
who is to bull necked to try and
learn any thing new and want to
do things his own way and not as
our customers want them. I brought
in bird after bird for you. But in
most every case he would neglect it
or find some fault with it because
it was shot two bad or something
else, and he just informed me when
to late to collect other sets of eggs with
[illegible] [illegible] that a box of fresh skins that
a skunk had torn to pieces contained
about a dozen that we intended for
you. I was surprised to find that [illegible]

skins he did make that he did not
put in any central wire so consequently
we have a lot of Hudsonian Godwits,
Stilt Sandpiper, Golden Plover Avocet Etc
with broken necks. But birds were never
never shot up to bad to mount
and he has a superb collection of mounted
birds especially the waders. This goes in
to his Private collection and gives me
no benefit. I have punched him up
this last week and he has made some
skins of such birds as we are able to find
nesting now such as Grebes Etc. I send
you by mail today a box containing a set
of 4 eggs Ferruginous Rough leg Hawk
We have the parent bird and nesting
material and will send it later
with the other skins & eggs. If the skin
does not suit you can throw it away
or as you like. There is not the least
doubt of it being a genuine Ferruginous
It is a very handsome hawk. Have
taken 8 set of their eggs this year. Have
set of 8-10-11-12 with [illegible] of Amer. Golden
eye but no parent bird. Have taken 16 sets
this year of them. We are in need of
money could you send us $5 on receipt
of eggs Mr Mummery want to return
this much inside of 10 days and needs money
I stay here for the geese & other birds that
and am going to try and get some moose
out of Manitoba for college
for the college museum
Edwin S Bryant. Devils Lake N.Dak.

Bryant - Edwin S.
Jan. 30. 1896.

Minneapolis Minn.
Jany 30/96

Mr William Brewster,

Dear Sir:

I t is with a feeling of hesitation I write this letter, I do not like to alway throw blame on someones elses shoulders. But I can see no other way. I trusted to Mr. Summary for the preperation of skins for you. But he always made some excuse. I brought in quite a number of birds for you. Some he put up in such a manner that he knew I would not send them, failing to take measurements claiming to have lost the tag, also failing to wire or otherwise stiffen so necks would not get broken. I can now see it was his deliberate intention to not want any birds to go to you. The great trouble and secret is this in one of your letters you said the ducks skins of my make were better than the skins he made. And this aroused jelosy in him, he is very conceited and one of those people that thinks his judgement can not be mistaken I was taken back in my estimation of him as a gentleman. I have found him out to be a rank fraud. He bled me to the amount of $15 money I loaned him besides $5 worth of fresh skins I sent him last fall. When we parted in July there were several accounts we had overdue these we divided each of us to settle with our men, I settle with mine and have just found out he would not make a move toward a settlement with his. So of course they look to me and I will have to do so this Spring to amount of $15. So by time I am through I will be out about $30 or $40 for my experience. I have written him 10 or 12 letters for an explanation, but have not received either a cent or a letter from him. And I know he has received my letters through friends who know.

I am sorry I ever had any business relations with such a man. Sufice to say he will not be with me again.

If You give me another chance to collect specimens for you. I will guarantee you will have something more than a set of [illegible]

enough big eggs to show for a seasons collecting
I will only make up skins for one other man
Mr Hoopes of West Chester this season beside you
if I have your order. All other skins will be
sent fresh and will devote the best part
of my time after eggs as there is more
money in it for me. I will go to Manitoba
and Should take about June 1 sure. Would
have got there last year if it had not
been for my companions superior judg-
ment? which led me off toward the Lake of
Woods on a wild goose chase which consumed
30 dys time and $30 in cash a lot of hard
work and not $1 returns [illegible]. What few
sets (about $10 worth only) we got, mysteriously
dissapeared at St Vincent & Pembina
Mummery thinks they were stolen by
some half breeds who supposed the boxes
contained something of value to them.
But I do not and believe the express company
books would show they were shipped to [illegible]
I will be willing to make up skins of [illegible]

of set of eggs taken for you and as you state in your letter of April 7/95 if you do not take them I can have you send some where else ~~a~~ this will serve to identify the eggs There ~~is~~ are two things in your letter of same date I may not have a clear understanding. You say "eggs to be accompanied by nest or nesting material", I take it by nesting material to be sent in such cases as the ~~to~~ Hawks, Grebes, Owls, and to consist of samples of the lining principally and no attempt to try and preserve form of nest. The other point is you added "Hawks and other large birds to the sets of grebes and Ducks wanted. Do I understand you want such common species as Marsh Hawk, Long Eared Owl, Western Ground Owl Black crowned Night Heron Ring bill Gull, Double crested Cormorant etc. I expect to go back in Dakota about March 10 and try and catch some of the winter birds. I will go to Jacksons Hole Wy. in Sep. and will stay some where in Idaho next winter and if all goes well and I have a good seasons work I will go to Alaska in '97 and perhaps winter there and stay season of '98. I staid in Dakota till Nov. 13 on the 11th I shot a Gyrfalcon which I placed in a box with some of my personal effects and shipped here. The box was lost to me for over a month and by that time the bird was nearly ruined. Mr Arnold of Battle Creek has it. As near as I could identify it was Falco rusticolus It was very wild and it was a chance shot that secured it. It had been around Sweetwater Lake for a week.

Sweetwater Lake froze solid Oct. 28 cattle walked out several rods from shore. Every thing was covered by ice. trees, bushes, stubble, and several inches of snow on ground yet the geese stayed there by thousands resting during middle of day and by night on the ice in center of the lakes in company ~~of~~ with some immense flocks of Mallards. It was a comical sight to see the geese fly out toward evening to the fields the contrast between their symmetrical lines and order and the disordered ranks of the Mallards was great. The ducks appeared in the role of [illegible] and for the first half mile it would be neck and neck but the distance would soon increase and the ducks would only arrive at the feeding grounds after the first course had been served. The same order of things occurred on return flight. Next to the Mallards the Gadwalls somewhat to my surprise were the last ducks to leave. When I left on the 13 at 3.30 a.m. Geese and ducks were passing over the town in great numbers. I had heard them honking at every hour from about dark of the evening of the 12th and I suppose it was about the last flock on their way south.

Yours Truly
Edwin S. Bryant

166 Western Ave.
Minneapolis
Minn.

Bryant, Edwin S.
Aug. 23rd. 1896

Grand Harbor
Aug. 23 '96

Mr. W. [illegible] [illegible]:

Dear Sir;

I was almost [illegible] when I came to get the material together I had collected for you.

I [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] it impossible to get any more.

I also found it more difficult to collect according to instructions than I suppos[ed]. For example I must have carried a gun at least twenty miles on different trips to secure a female and set of eggs. I had several nests spotted but something happened to keep me from obtaining a female. The next to last chance I had was spoiled by a farmer finding a spotted nest and bringing me the eggs.

And again for example some sets of Mallard Pintail & Shoveller were either plowed under or eaten by crows and [illegible]. The Swainson [illegible] in my grove by my "shack" was taken care of by [illegible] [illegible]. A [illegible] Hawk's egg and bird were spoiled by eggs not being in condition to blow. And again I had to do all of my collecting in an [illegible] manner and perforce had to often leave my gun at home. Even now I am [illegible] in an [illegible] [illegible] among [illegible]

foreigners although I [illegible]
[illegible] I should like [illegible]
have friends in the [illegible]
and [illegible]
with [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] kept off their grounds
But finally the [illegible]
informed took up the matter [illegible]
deputy Game Warden [illegible]
the season [illegible]
[illegible] and stole away [illegible] was
in the act of stealing away I lost the head
and wings of the [illegible]
[illegible]
of the [illegible] I send you the Bluewing teal
and Redhead have the head and wings mis[illegible]
But you can [illegible]
The only other set that I send [illegible]
to the letter of your instructions is that of
Mallard. I collected it [illegible]
in charge of a young man that I had to
assist me. He understood wrongly what I
told him and [illegible] but just
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
I tried hard to get you a set of Prairie
[illegible] tail grouse but they were [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] with the [illegible]
[illegible] "sticking" there [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

3

(dont hitch this to page 1 because and use page 2)

horse thief as to be caught shooting a chicken off a nest. But you can depend they are all after them as soon as the young are large. As I am [illegible] Today [illegible] the guns are popping all around the country, and mostly at chickens. But then I must tell you I went out myself with a friend other day with a dozen shells apiece and secured 21 ducks total weight 35 lbs in about an hour. But I assure you that every duck was eaten and not left where they drop as is custom among many duck shooters here. What think you of one being left to spoil in one spot by a party of selfe styled sportsman. It has been just these sort of brutes that have been the leaders in their threats toward me and the certain farmers that entertain these aiders and abbetors to the blind pig system sort of sports at $2 per day etc. I make out bill on other side of this sheet according to my record of winter of 94 & 95. That is figuring the head & wings at price of egg and nest at price of eggs. Will you please send $8 (eight dollars) to Mr. H. W. [illegible] Atlantic City (Hotel Windsor) N. J. He leaves as soon after Sept 1 for New Orleans as possible and I wish to get money to him as soon as possible. Please don't [illegible] you get this [illegible] will not [illegible] [illegible] but greatly accommodate these

4

[illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] you [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] by [illegible] order to me at Grand Harbor, N.D. Ramsey Co.

William Brewster

To

E. S. [illegible]

Dr

To

[illegible]	5	[illegible]					@	.20		[illegible]
Canada Goose	7	"	1	"	1	"	"	.50	=	4.50
Western Grebe	4	"	1	"	1	Head & Wings	"	.20	=	1.20
Eared "	5	"	1	"	1	"	"	.05	=	.35
Gadwall	11	"	1	"	1	"	"	.35	=	4.55
Blue wing Teal	11	"	1	"			"	.10	=	1.20
Redhead	7	"	1	"			"	.18	=	1.44
Canvas-back	8	"	1	"	1	"	"	.60	=	6.00
Ruddy Duck	8	"	1	"	1	"	"	.25	=	2.50
Mallard	9	"	1	"	1	"	"	15	=	1.65
Goldeneye	8	"	1	"	1	skin	"	50	=	5.00
									$	24.74

The only thing I took in the line of waders was a set of [illegible] eggs [illegible] [illegible] Spotted [illegible] [illegible]. Just at present it is packed up in a box that is at a house ten miles away but if you wish I can send by mail. Such high water this year (higher than any year since '82) that all [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] willet or Avocet till last of June. Expect to winter [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] of the [illegible] [illegible]. Will collect near there next year [illegible] [illegible] a good [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] and the Pend d'Oreille regions be for a reasonable number of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Yours Truly,

Edwin S. [illegible],

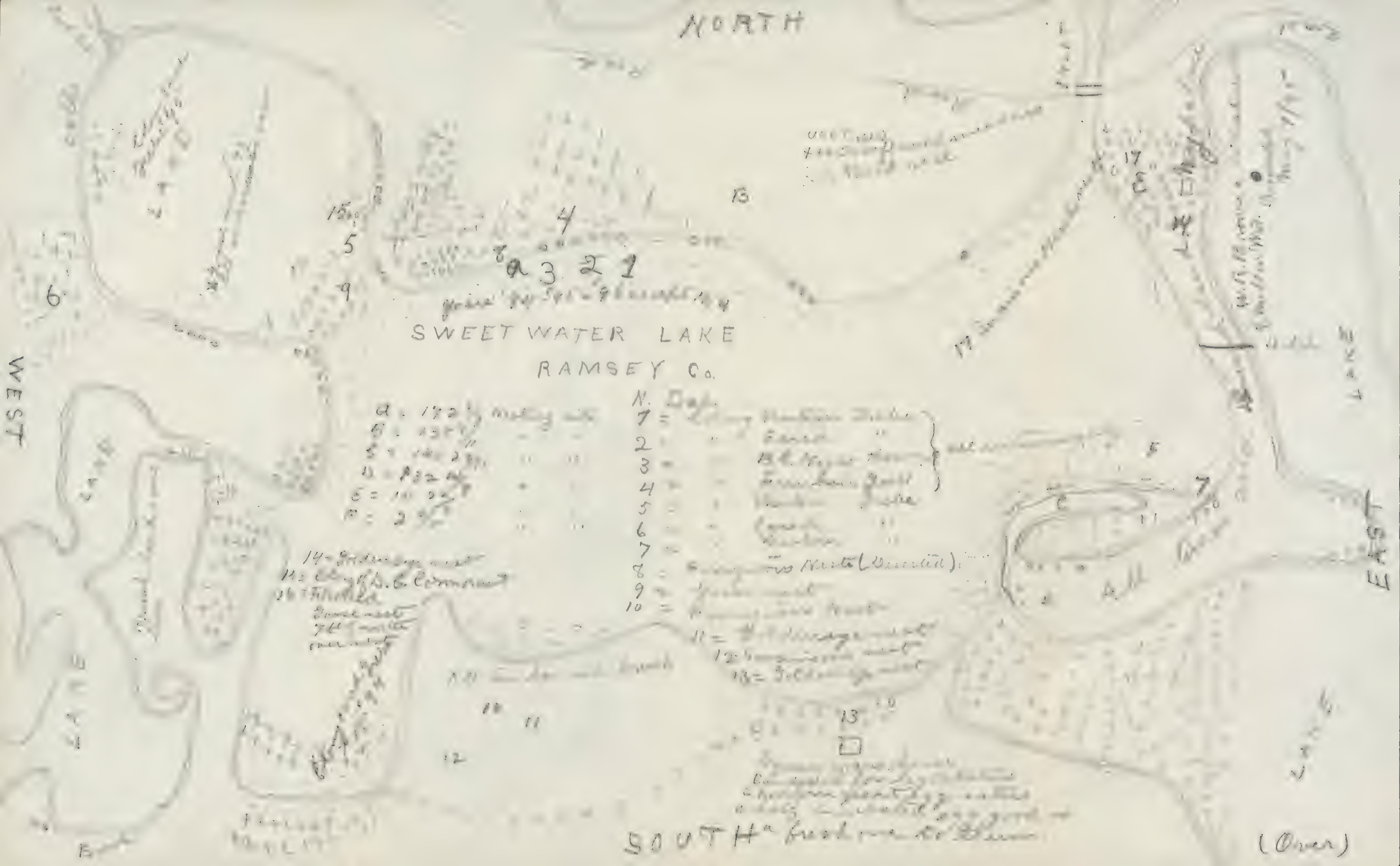
[illegible]

Ramsey Co.

N. Dak.

P.S. I do not consider this a business letter but hope it it may be of some interest. If it does not [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

E.S.R.


NORTH
SWEET WATER LAKE
RAMSEY Co.
N. Dak.
WEST
EAST
SOUTH
LAKE
a 3 2 1
4
5
6
9
13
15
17
1 =
2
3 =
4
5
6
7
8 =
9
10 =
11 =
12
13 =
14
(Over)

This map drawn from memory. The northwest lake should be three times as large to be in right proportion impossible to include the neighboring lakes on this scale.

Have only put down a few of the nesting sites on map those I supposed would be of most interest to you on account of dates Etc.

E. S. Bryant

Over

[illegible]
[illegible]

Mr. William Brewster
Dear Sir:

Yours of [illegible] with [illegible] [illegible] received.

[illegible] for you [illegible] [illegible]. Will write you [illegible] [illegible] have an order from you. I will try and do better for you in every way. I labored under a disadvantage that [illegible] season [illegible] [illegible] thinking that perhaps after all you might not take the [illegible] of my hands from some fault of mine.

Birds [illegible] here in [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] as soon as he can make up his [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible]

Bryant — Edwin S.
Nov. 16th 1896.

Grand Harbor N. Dak.
March 9 1897

Mr William Brewster:

Dear Sir;

I write to find out what I can do for you in the line of collecting this season. But what ever I do do I will try and do it best of my ability. I will try to give more extensive notes to you than before.

I find that full and complete data are liked by all so will make a special effort in that direction. I had planed to go into Assiniboia but the red tape of the Canadian Customs officers barred me. I can not drive across the frontier except for about a weeks stay without paying duty on about every thing from team to a collar button. So my trip will be out west of Devils Lake thence to and along the Mouse River thence west along the Missouri to Montana. I may visit the Wood Mts. just across the north border of Montana. By this trip I will cross the Coteau and see a great variety of.

country and of here a large variety of birds.

After visiting some breeding grounds of Canada Geese and Ferruginous Rough-leg around here I will start west, that will be about May.

Wish you could use some sets of Canada Geese or Rough-leg. I am somewhat shy on orders for Geese especially and expect to take along eight or ten sets, although it is no easy matter to secure parent. They are apt to flush at too great a distance to shoot. In list I underline those that I have already placed with you. I start after the Horned Owls this week. I will secure all females to sets from as I am convinced there are two if not three forms that are resident and breed. Please excuse writing as I have to sit with my feet to the fire and hold my paper on my knee. This is indeed a cold dreary country in winter.

Your Truly-

Edwin S. Bryant.

Grand Harbor,

N. Dak.

Season 1897

Expected takes in eggs in North Dakota

Head and wings price per egg

Nests price per egg.

A.O.U. No		price per egg.	A.O.U. No		price per egg.
1	Western Grebe	.15	143	Pintail	.20
2	Holboells "	.15	146	Redhead	. 8
3	Horned "	.15	147	Canvas-back	.50
4	Amer. Eared "	.05	149	Lesser Scaup	.50
6	Pied-billed "	.05	150	Ringnecked Duck	.75
54	Ring-billed Gull	.15	151	Amer. Golden-eye	.30
59	Franklins "	.20	153	Buffle head	1.00
60	Bonapartes "	1,00	165	Whitewing Scoter	1,00
69	Forsters Tern	.05	167	Ruddy Duck	.20
70	Common "	.05	172	Canada Goose	.50
77	Black "	.05	190	Amer. Bittern	.30
120	D. Crested Cormorant	.15	202	Bkcrowned Night Heron	.08
125	White Pelican	.20	204	Whooping Crane	225
131	Hooded Merganser	1,00	206	Sandhill "	1,50
132	Mallard	.15	221	Amer. Coot.	.05
135	Gadwall	.30	224	Wilsons Phalarope	.30
137	Baldpate	.30	225	Amer. Avocet	.25
139	Greenwing Teal	.40	249	Marbled Godwit	1,00
140	Bluewing Teal	.10			
141	Cinnamon "	.25	258a	Western Willet	.50
142	Shoveller	.20	261	Bartramian Sandpiper	.20

Bryant_Edwin S.
Mar. 9. 1897.

a.O.V. No		price per egg	a.O.V. No	price per egg
277a	Belted Piping Plover	.70		
308b	Prairie Sharp-tail Grouse	.25		
331	Marsh Hawk	.15		
334	Goshawk perhaps 334a	1.00		
337a	Kriders Hawk	.75		
342	Swainsons "	.20		
347a	Amer. Rough-leg Hawk	1.50		
348	Ferruginous " "	1.50		
366	Amer Long Eared Owl	.15		
367	" Short " "	.35		
375a	Western Horned "	.40		
393a	Northern Hairy Woodpecker.	.50		
501b	Western Meadowlark	.05		
538	Chestnut-collared Longspur	.15		
539	Mc Cowns "	.40		
540a	Western Vesper Sparrow	.15		
621	Northern Shrike	.40		
700	Spragues Pipit	1.00		

Many such as the rarer sparrows, warblers, etc I do not list as finding nests of them is somewhat like a lottery one cant guess what a season will bring forth. However I will at once notify of any rare takes and we can settle on terms then. Small birds and those that represent geographical forms I will save the skin entire. If not in a position to make up skin I will leave them flat, this no doubt will be more satisfactory than head and wings alone.

I experimented with a camera last season and may purchase it this year if I do I may have some pictures of nests in situ.

Grand Harbor N.D.
June 14 1897

Mr. William Brewster:

Dear Sir;

May I publish in an advertisement a portion of a letter you sent me complimenting my data, and preparation of eggs etc. I thought it not quite proper without your permission.

Have nothing on hand that you care for yet as I know of.

I will undoubtedly have some sets of White-winged Scoter in a few weeks They are here in greater numbers than I have ever seen them yet. It is nothing to have 10 or 12 pairs circling around me at one time during their in-land flights They stay in nearer shore on water than I ever saw them do. I can walk down to the shore of lake (1/4 mile distant) and see 15 or 20 ~~birds~~ Scoters at any time of day

Bryant - Edwin S.
June 14. 1897.

Capt. Bendire wrote me that it must be a rare occurance for this Scoter to nest here. If he was alive to-day and could see some of the great flights of them He would think the Whitewinged Scoter was the most common duck to be found here But of course they are not. They all seem to stay in this particular bay so that accounts for there apparent abundance. Away from this bay or arm of lake I dont recall seeing over three birds through out Northern North Dakota east of [illegible].

I will put up a female with set of eggs, nest, for you if you want them. If not no harm done any way.

Yours Truly -
Edwin S. Bryant

Bryant E. S.
Sep 2-1897

St Vincent Minn.
Sep. 2 1897

Mr William Brewster:

Dear Sir

I send you set of White wing Scoters with nest and female. I had taken 21 sets of the Scoter when I had to quit and pack up my stuff and get out. Influence was undoubtedly brought to bear on or an enemy I had to inform on me to the Game warden in Devils Lake

There are people who are jelous of my success and I think they had a hand in the affair. However I got all my skins out the state and said Game warden never laid eyes on me thanks to my many friends up there. In the hurry of packing I broke the neck of the Scoter but it will serve for identification and I will make no charge for it. The night I got out

I the fact that the warden was coming down
in the morning with a search warrent. I put all
my specimens in boxes and baskets and took them
across the bay and hid them in the middle
of a wheat field. I had to go to this extreme
as the said warden is a Deputy U.S. Marshell
and a man hard to bluff or deal with.

I shiped my specimens to Mr. Pentony
here and then followed them. If it had
not been for this affair I would have taken
some 8 or 10 more sets. And would have saved
all of the 170 Scoters eggs I did take. However I
saved some 140 first class eggs. As I said before
this is the only bay that the Scoters are
to be found on. But Mr. Rolfe claims
he saw some around the point (4 miles
distant) but he did not find a single
nest and I guess the birds belonged
to the bay. All birds were very tame especially
at first and would allow one to kneel
down and part the grass or weeds and
touch them. In one case the old bird
allowed herself to be lifted from nest.
Once I stepped within an inch of this bird [illegible]
upon accidentally and she did not fly till I reached
down and touched her. On account of this

tameness the nest were extremely hard to find. And the greater majority of the 21 nests were found when there were but from two to four eggs in nest and female absent. You can imagine the difficulty of locating them. It meant the examining of every bunch of weed & grass on hundreds of acres of land. One patch of 40 acres I went over thoroughly twice and the third time I discovered ground III of nest and a singular When I cut the brush away from nest to try and photograph a bird on nest the birds got so wild that I could not approach within 9 or 10 rods.

The birds were in a varied plumage the heads of some females were nearly white. Males many of them have brownish feathers on front of head. I have a theory that these Scoters do not come direct to Devils Lake from the south but are overflow as it were from the Hudson Bay country

I hear of great numbers of these Scoters passing north along the New Jersey coast but can not find any notes of a very extensive flight through the Mississippi valley. The birds are common in many parts of Manitoba & Assiniboia and supposed to be all through out the Fur countries. My theory is that the flights on the Atlantic coast a great portion go in to Hudson Bay and scatter abroad down the water ways. The Scoters do not reach Devils Lake till last of May and leave in Sep last or first half of Oct. or at least they are not to be seen. But just before the freeze up there are scattering flocks of the several Scoters on lakes on their way south.

Well will close. If you would like a rough out line of the bay with places were nests of Scoters were found I can make one for you. My charges for the eggs are $1 each. Will make none for the nest or bird.

Yours Truly.
Edwin S. Bryant
St. Vincent
Minn.
Box 34

St. Vincent Minn
Oct 8 1897

Mr. William Brewster,
Dear Sir,
Will it be convenient to send me returns for set of [illegible] by any time between now and the 10th of November. I will start the 20th of this on a deer & moose hunt and will be here about the 10th of Nov. and wish to start east by the 20th of same month to make a visit to my parents as I have been away nearly three years.

This is no strong order offer but can use [illegible]. Or you can make money order payable at Pembina N.Dak but send mail here to St. Vincent Minn.

Yours Truly
Edward S. Bryant

Bryant E. S.
Oct 9 - 1897.

We sent the money by registered letter Oct 7.

Columbia Falls Mont.
June 10/08

Mr. William Brewster,

Dear Sir;

Have you any use yourselfe, or could you put me on track of some educational institution where I could dispose of some skins of the Rocky Mt Goat. I furnish the entire skin hoofs with leg bones attached etc for the mounting of the entire animal. At the following prices. Matured Male or Femal $25, Kids $15. I do not hunt for head but each fall I have two or three heads of Goat to dispose of on account of the body portion being unfit to send out as a specimen. Heads of Male $10 female $8 the latter is by far the hansomer of the two as their horns are longer and more symetrical. I deliver good at my expense at these prices. Specimens will not be taken till in the long hair, and will be ready for delivering in

November and December. I have chance to buy Elk head each fall. But can not give prices as hardly any two sets of horns are of same value. If you should want one can post you with descriptions and prices from time to time as I should get some in to my hands. I can furnish whole skin, hoof etc. of Bull Elk, Deer: Mt Sheep and Moose, Bear are among the possibilities. Can get them if incentive enough is offered. What should skins of White tailed Ptarmigan be worth. I go next week where I expect to bring back several of them.

Yours Truly—
Edwin S. Bryant.
Columbia Falls
Mont.

Box 76

Bryant, E. ~~W.~~ S.
June 10, 1900.